

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of claims 1-38 and 46-55 as allowed by the Examiner.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 39, directed to a method for controlling access to a secure area, in light of the allowed claim 1. Support for the amendment is found, for example, at Page 13, Lines 6-15 of the specification, which describes that the badges and the symbols can initiate a remote software update for the camera or change the operating mode of the camera. No new matter has been introduced by way of the amendment. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the pending claims, in view of the amendments made to claim 39 and the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 39-41 and 43-44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by WO99/36836 to Hass et al, (hereinafter "Hass"). The Examiner has further rejected claims 42 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Hass.

Independent claim 39, as amended, recites a method of controlling access to a secure area, which includes recording a digital image of a person and an identity badge with a camera, transmitting the digital image to a computer, retrieving identity information and access control information from a database based on symbols on the identity badge, retrieving camera control information associated with the symbols, comparing the identity information with the person in the digital image, allowing access when a positive result arises from the comparison step and reprogramming the camera based on the camera control information.

Turning to the prior art, Hass discloses an ID badge verification system, which includes a badge (24), and a CCTV monitoring system having a camera (20) and an image processor (26). Specifically, the badge includes a reflective surface having a predetermined


reflective pattern indicating a predetermined ID status of a bearer of the badge. The reflective pattern has the capability of time-dependently changing from a first reflective pattern to a second reflective pattern by electromagnetic radiation. Accordingly, the bearer's ID status in the system is updated from a first ID status to a second ID status.

However, Hass does not disclose retrieving camera control information associated with the symbols on the badge, which is subsequently used by the image processor to reprogram the camera.

Thus, Hass does not disclose each step of claim 39, from which claims 40-45 depend. Accordingly, the above rejections of claims 39-45 either under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Hass are overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is firmly believed that the subject application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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